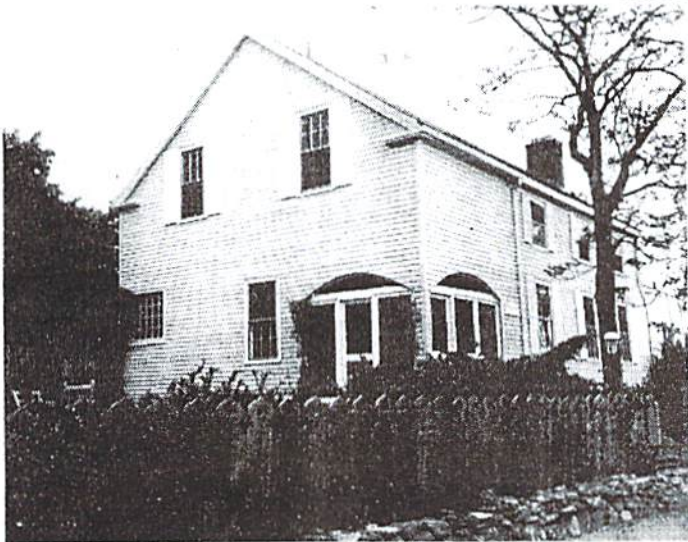
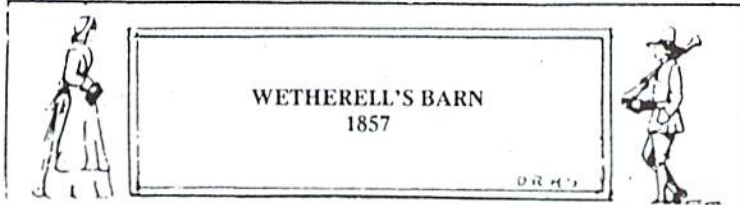


HISTORICAL HOUSES - NAMED, M-Z

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, May 30, 1974



On the first day of 1853, Seth Sprague, a farmer, and his wife, Welthea, sold a parcel of land to Robert Kennedy. Kennedy was a tailor and probably thought his new lot of land, located on the corner of what is now Plumfield Lane and Washington St., a good location to establish a business. Accordingly, he built a house in 1854 in the acre site.

During the summer of 1857 Gershom Wetherell, a tinsmith, bought the house and added to it a stable. Between that year and today as a residence, the barn has served a variety of uses.

In 1868 Gershom Wetherell divided his property and sold the barn

to Eden Sampson to be used as a livery stable. Ill health finally forced him to sell it for \$177, the highest bid at auction.

Between 1861 and 1865, 279 men from Duxbury were furnished for the Civil War. When it was over the Grand Army of the Republic, a patriotic society, was founded by Civil War veterans. Its main purposes were to promote a feeling of fraternity between those serving in the war, to perpetuate the memory and history of the dead, and extend aid and comfort to the orphans and widows.

The Duxbury Chapter, William Wadsworth Post #165 Grand Army of the Republic, had been formed and was looking for a building in which to hold its activities. The Wetherell barn was bought, moved a few feet from the house, closer to the road, remodeled, and dedicated Oct. 5, 1894.

As the number of survivors of the Sons of the GAR Veterans diminished, it was decided to give the hall to the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, if they in turn would agree to preserve and display the Post's Civil War collections.

When the hall was sold to Miss Sabina Marshall in 1957, the proceeds were used to build onto the Drew House, the old headquarters of the Historical Society, a room to house the collection.

For a few years the building was unused until offered for sale, once again. The First Baptist Church bought and used it until their present Tremont St. Church was completed. Today, after many renovations, the old Gershom Wetherell Barn, built in 1857, is the residence of the Thomas Merna family, Washington St.